

The Shift of Population from Country to Town

by C. C. Taylor

1913

Offered as part requirement for the degree, Master
of Arts in the Universty of Kansas.

THE SHIFT OF POPULATION.

f r o m

C O U N T R Y T O T O W N .

-----oOo-----

A T H E S I S

by

C. C. TAYLOR

Offered as part requirement for the degree,

M A S T E R O F A R T S

in the

U N I V E R S I T Y O F K A N S A S .

1 9 1 3 .

-----oOo-----

Contents.

Introduction-----	1
Chapter I, Facts and Figures-----	6
Chapter II, Economic Viewpoint-----	16.
Farmers do not become wealthy-----	17
Crop failure-----	18
Cannot capitalize a farm-----	19
Farming don't pay-----	20
The question of roads-----	22
The hired help problem-----	24
Chapter III, The Social Viewpoint-----	27
Schools-----	27
The home-----	34
Churches-----	35
Recreation and Amusements-----	37
Chapter IV, The Psychological Viewpoint-----	39
Influence of the Class Spirit-----	40
Gregarious Instinct-----	42
Isolation-----	44
Brain Versus Brawn-----	46
Education and Culture-----	46
Racial Differences-----	47
Spirit of Speculation-----	48
Natural adaptation-----	49
Conclusion-----	50

Introduction.

In the early settlement of this country by immigrants from the British Isles and countries of Europe, the primary occupation of the people was necessarily that of agriculture. This continued to be almost the sole method of procuring a lively-hood until the oppressive policy of the heavy taxes laid by the Mother Country caused the colonies to begin the manufacture of articles in order to avoid the exorbitant duties that were being forced from them. And in 1789, the time of the formation of the Union, Professor Hart says; "The chief resource of the country was agriculture; almost every state raised its own food, and there were considerable exports, particularly of wheat and flour. Manufactures were chiefly imported from England, the only widely known American industry was the distilling of New England rum. The chief source of wealth was still commerce; in 1790 the exports and imports were about twenty million dollars each or five dollars per head of the population.*

In such a fertile region as this located in a Temperate Zone the natural and easy way to secure a lively-hood, especially while the country was new, was from the soil; but as the population grew more dense and the soil less prolific, men turned their attention partly to other means of money-making.

The topography of New England aided men in taking

*"Formation of the Union" by Hart, page 139.

up manufacturing as power was to be obtained in large quantities. This together with the facilities afforded on the coast in the way of good harbors for commerce, caused people to begin to gather together in cities.

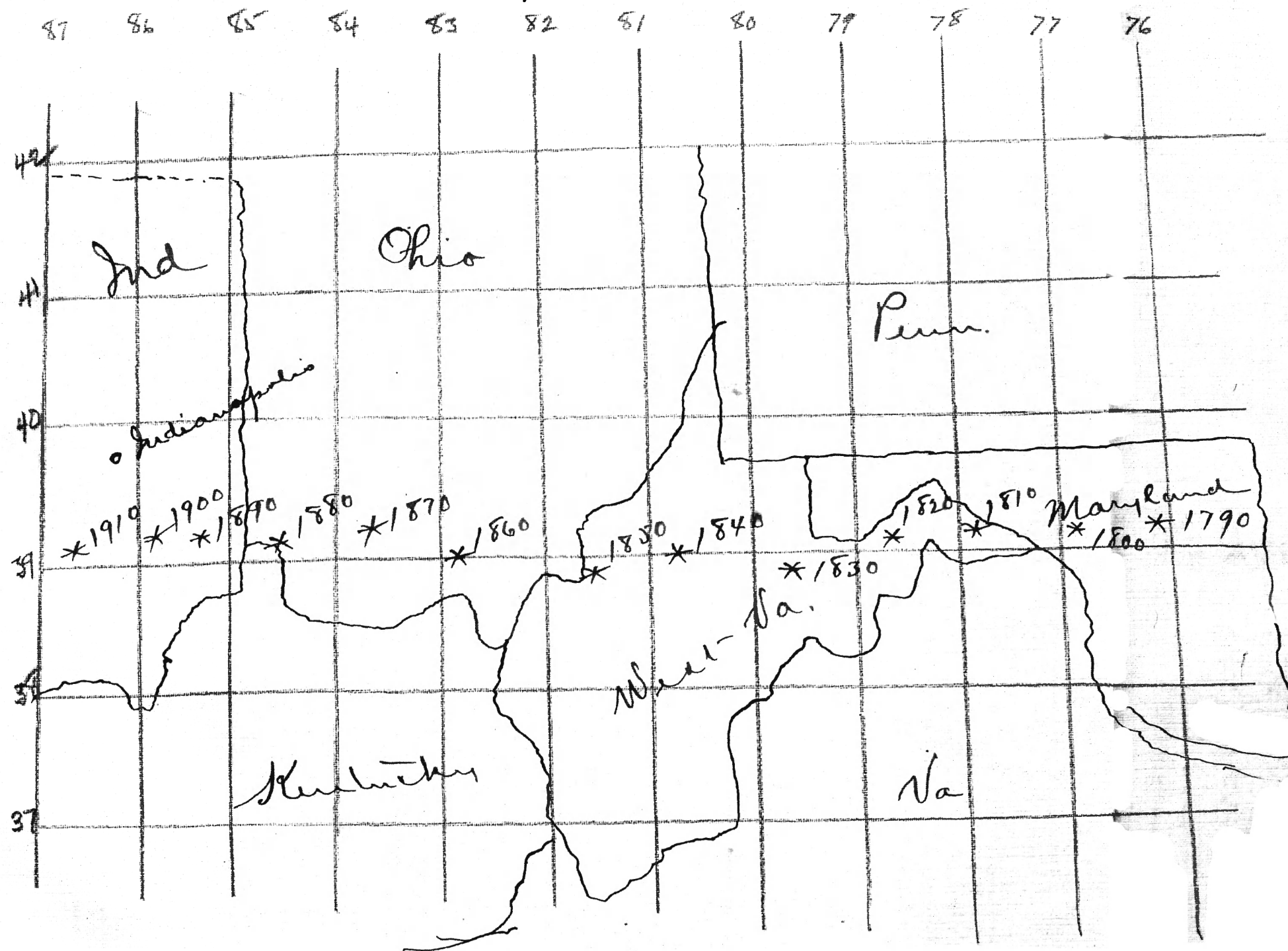
As the agricultural lands were being all taken up in the region of the coast men began to pass over the Appalachian Mountains to the west. The chart on the following page shows how the center of population has traveled from the point in Maryland in 1790 to a point in south central Indiana in 1910.

After the Revolutionary War the country prospered and built up quite a shipping industry, not so much because of American enterprise as because of greater security to cargoes in foreign ports. When this advantage was swept away American shipping languished and manufacturing took its place.

The population of the United States at the close of the war of 1812 was about eight million five hundred thousand, and it was increasing relatively faster in the South and West than near the sea-board showing that the advantages of agriculture were drawing the people in these directions.

Kentucky was admitted into the Union in 1792, Tennessee in 1796, Ohio in 1803, Indiana in 1816, Illinois in 1818, and Missouri in 1821. These states because of their location in relation to the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers offered exceptionally good oppor-

Center of Population
1790 - 1910



tunities for agriculture and hence were being thus early settled up by the ever-increasing population of the coast and the hordes of immigrants flowing into the country. More than twenty thousand immigrants arrived in the United States in the year 1817.

While agriculture was the principal business of the people yet manufacture began to gain some prominence. The restrictive legislation from 1806 to 1812 while it did not cut off foreign imports yet checked them and shrewd men of business turned their attention to manufacture.

Though the manufacturer on the coast might be able to supply the western farmer with many things he needed, yet the lack of transportation facilities hindered their trade. In this connection the invention of the steamboat in 1807 and the introduction of the locomotive into the United States in 1829 are facts of great significance. In regard to transportation Professor Hart says; "In two respects the war (1812) had taught the Americans their own weakness; they had had poor facilities for transportation and they had lacked manufactures of military material. There was a wide-spread feeling that the means of intercommunication ought to be improved. The troops on the northern frontier had been badly provisioned and slowly reinforced because they could not readily be reached over the poor roads. A system had been invented which was suitable for the rapid-running rivers of the interior

and for lake navigation; in 1807 Fulton made the first voyage by steam on the Hudson River, Nine years later a system of passenger service had been developed in various directions from New York, and a steamer was running on the Mississippi.*

In 1830 there were 40 miles of railroad in the United States, in 1841, 3,361, in 1847, 5,206, and in 1854, 17,745 miles.

The original territory of the United States was increased from time to time by various annexations and purchases. Louisiana was added in 1803, the Northwest Territory in 1805, Florida in 1819, Texas in 1845, California in 1848, and the Gadsden Purchase in 1853. Later Alaska, Porto Rico and the Fillipines were added.

Hitherto there has been plenty of room for the agriculturist but the time arrived when there was no more land available; some of the land had been tilled for many years and was year by year growing less productive. Railroads increased the facilities for transportation and this together with the wonderful era of invention gave greater impetus to manufacture. A high protective tariff gave the manufacturer security in his competition with foreign goods. Factories employed large numbers of men, women and children hence an added impetus to the growth of the cities. The gathering of large numbers of people together calls for other industries to supply their needs and to provide for their convenience

*"Formation of the Union" by Hart, page 224-5.

until our cities are far out-stripping the rural districts in growth. Still sociologists would not be so deeply concerned about this were it not for the fact that in many places the population of the rural districts is actually decreasing.

This then is the problem before us. The shift of population from country to town and some of the causes leading to it is the theme of this study.

Chapter I.

Facts and figures.

In recent years much has been said about the exodus from the rural districts and "back to the farm" has become a popular cry among some reformers. But what is the condition? Is there a decrease in the rural population and has it reached an alarming stage? The following table shows the respective population urban and rural 1880-1910.

Population	1910	1900	1890	1880
Total....	91,972,266	75,994,575	62,947,714	50,155,783.
Urban....	42,623,383	30,797,185	22,720,223	14,772,438.
Rural....	49,348,883	45,197,390	40,227,491	35,383,345.
Total per cent.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban	46.3	40.5	36.1	29.5
Rural	53.7	59.5	63.9	70.5

Note--Rural population as defined by the census of 1910 includes all towns and villages of less than 2500 inhabitants.

The following states had a decrease in rural population in the decade 1900-1910.

New Hampshire	9,846	Indiana	96,732.
Vermont	17,448	Iowa	114,750.
Rhode Island	2,953	Ohio	57,185.
New York	42,663	Illinois	43,520.
Missouri	84,043		

The following states show a decrease in population in the decade 1890-1900.

Maine	5,406	New Jersey	13,788.
Vermont	10,898	Ohio	8,776.
New York	132,654	Kansas	16,315.

Other states will show a decrease if rural population be defined as that outside of all incorporated towns or cities. For instance, Kansas outside of incorporated towns had a population of 944,439 in 1890, 923,358 in 1900, and 918,439 in 1910, showing a constant decrease in the number of people actually on the farm. Another instance is Michigan. The population outside of incorporated towns was 1,152,454 in 1890, 1,207,120 in 1900, and 1,197,174 in 1910.

Since some of the best agricultural states, notably some of those of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, show a decrease in rural population it seems that the statement of Professor Gillette that,* "The fundamental forces or conditions which transfer populations from country to city are of an economic nature" might justly be ques-

*"Constructive Rural Sociology" by Gillette, page 186.

tioned. Yet in my own investigation over thirty-three and one-third per cent of the reasons given for leaving the farm were those of an economic nature.

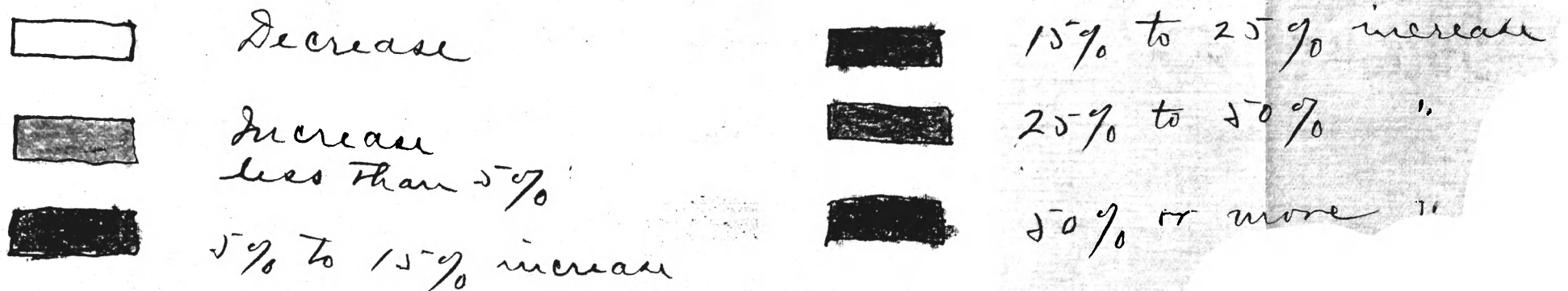
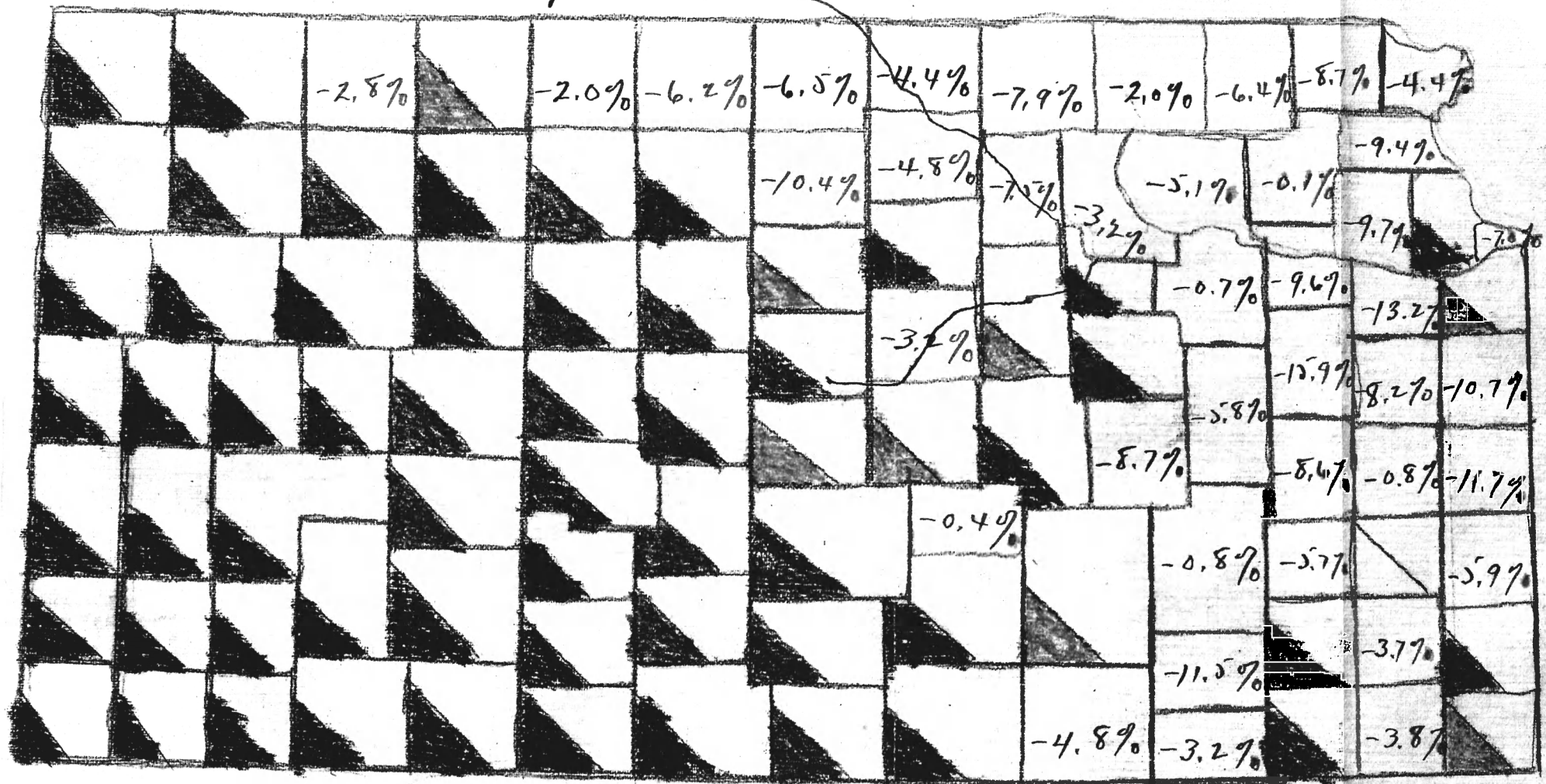
In order to make a more intensive study of specific conditions I present some of the statistics of the state of Kansas, hoping that conditions there were tolerably representative of the whole situation. Kansas had a rural population in 1890 of 1,155,907, in 1900 1,139,592, in 1910 1,197,159. The increase or decrease as the case may be by counties is shown in the chart on page 9.

Thirty-nine counties in the eastern and northern parts of the state show a decrease in rural population for the decade 1900-1910 in percentages ranging from 0.1 per cent in Jackson County to 15.9 per cent in Osage County. There were eight counties having an increase of less than 5 per cent; nine counties that had an increase of 5 to 15 per cent; six counties that had an increase of 15 to 25 per cent; thirteen counties had an increase of 25 to 50 per cent; thirty counties had an increase of 50 per cent or more.

The chart on page 10 shows the population by counties in the different censuses from 1860 to 1910. This chart shows that practically the same counties of the east and north that showed a decrease in rural population in the decade 1900-1910 are the ones first settled as shown by the census of 1860. Then the ones latest to be settled

Kansas

Rural Population 1900-1910.



Kansas

Population by counties 1860-1910.

4248 2640 4401 37	6380 5241 6756 1623	8976 9334 8414 4180	11614 11825 10617 6998	14150 14442 13661 12014	16365 16384 15613 13843	18148 19420 19349 17475 207	19449 18248 19002 14913 1281	20229 21963 22094 14910 4081	23580 24355 23912 16136 6901	19072 20376 19249 12462 7339	21314 22367 20719 12417 8223	14422 17099 13335 13961 2607
4649 3341 5261 13	8455 4112 2538 161	5651 3819 3733 1567	8700 6173 6029 4258	11282 7960 8008 8112	12827 11844 12883 12517 33	14089 14647 15037 14911 453	15071 15295 15343 2323 15146	16251 15333 15146 12320 2942 163	17522 18470 17222 16350 10460 8106 1224	16161 13117 14626 10718 6053 1936	15266 17507 13426 17533 16620 15663 12516	14422 17099 13335 13961 2607
2759 1178 2468 686 538	4240 1962 3354	6044 2441 2994 1196	5398 2722 2535 2535 166	12170 8626 7942 6179 1336	10880 8489 7833 7381 156	9586 9709 8882 516 10444 9626 9232 8494 1155	10365 15343 2121 20338 17076 17442 13808 4246	24361 21816 22275 15251 3048 378	12687 11967 9265 2228 770	12721 12813 12720 8756 3362 1025	12721 12813 12720 8756 3362 1025	12721 12813 12720 8756 3362 1025
1335 493 1264 3	2006 1197 1827 14	3047 1098 1262 43	2603 1363 2060 601	5853 4533 4944 3722 2	7826 6184 8204 8490	17876 13754 13172 10318 2	15706 14745 14491 9292 14745	21521 21421 21614 17143 738	22415 20676 20639 12453 768 74	12687 11967 9265 2228 770	12721 12813 12720 8756 3362 1025	12721 12813 12720 8756 3362 1025
3360 1426 2627 168	3206 1167 1571 159	6908 3409 3350	2930 2632 2393 1704	5859 5084 5204 2396 779	12570 1829 8520 4755	37853 29627 27099 12826	19200 17691 17601 11467	23069 23363 40000 18886 3035 487	16060 16196 16369 16548 3484 769	16060 16196 16369 16548 3484 769	16060 16196 16369 16548 3484 769	16060 16196 16369 16548 3484 769
1034 327 1031 5	1057 422 1208 9	993 437 1077	5055 1581 2542 296	4093 1701 2367 163	8281 1619 2349 372	9916 6549 7973 2661	14748 16310 13266 4183	30654 26361 30271 20812 22	31790 30156 34478 21638 1176 198	10128 11443 12216 16623	10128 11443 12216 16623	10128 11443 12216 16623
1333 304 724 9	2453 620 1418 1412	4091 822 1503 5	5055 1581 2542 296	4093 1701 2367 163	8281 1619 2349 372	9916 6549 7973 2661	14748 16310 13266 4183	30654 26361 30271 20812 22	31790 30156 34478 21638 1176 198	10128 11443 12216 16623	10128 11443 12216 16623	10128 11443 12216 16623

up are the ones showing the largest increase in rural population 1900-1910.

This is in harmony with the general move westward and to the south mentioned in the introduction and shown in the chart of the center of population. But this shows only the trend of the whole population hence to prove that the rural population has been shifting in these directions I submit the following figures from the thirteenth census. The table shows that the New England States had a loss of over 7,000 more in 1900-10 than in 1890-00. The Middle Atlantic States had quite a little larger gain. The East North Central States (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan) had a loss of 132,256 in 1900-10. The West North Central States gained in 1900-10 less than half what they did in the preceding decade. The South Atlantic States fell only a little over a hundred thousand and so on until we come to the Mountain and Pacific States which show the only gain of 1900-10 over 1890-00. Without these two groups the country would show a loss in rural population.

Table.

Gain or loss in rural population by geographical divisions.

Group	1890-00	1900-10.
New England	17,148	24,502
Middle Atlantic	6,347	213,724
East North Central	385,482	132,256

West North Central	777,586	363,326.
South Atlantic	1,090,945	891,894.
East South Central	804,855	418,971.
West South Central	1,450,109	1,351,985.
Mountain	274,986	552,712.
Pacific	207,737	515,639.

The movement has been ever to the West and South seeking the new lands that were being opened up; and as the new countries were gaining the old were gradually losing, in spite of the natural increase in population, until the gain in 1900-10 was shut up to the two groups of states before mentioned, Mountain and Pacific States.

In this connection it might be well to observe that the center of the number of farms is going westward being in southern Illinois in 1900. The center of farm values is going westward being near Jacksonville, Illinois in 1900. The center of total area of farms is going westward, being southwest of Jefferson City, Missouri in 1900. The center of oats production is going westward, being near Iowa City, Iowa in 1900. The center of wheat production is going toward the northwest being west of Des Moines, Iowa in 1900. The center of corn production is going westward, being south of Jacksonville, Illinois in 1900. The center of manufactures is going westward being near the center of Ohio in 1900. We have already noticed the movement of the center of population. The following table shows the principal exports in amount for eight months

ending in February in each of the years 1911, 1912 and 1913.

Table of Exports.

Articles	1911	1912	1913.
Barley bu.	8,361,836	1,359,255	13,843,428
Corn	35,756,375	31,158,609	30,794,511
Corn Meal bbl	267,608	284,349	265,292
Oats bu.	968,130	1,142,297	31,995,836
Oat meal lb.	18,098,347	7,055,862	25,376,553
Rye bu.	119	1,990	737,243
Wheat bu.	18,349,202	25,623,745	67,392,410.
Wheat flour	6,667,291	7,704,774	7,814,937

Cattle	No.	71,995	78,285	4,882
Hogs	"	723	9,348	6,222
Sheep	"	42,513	76,408	55,955
Canned beef lb		8,138,144	8,389,272	5,023,154
Fresh	" "	28,186,468	12,040,065	4,553,311
Pickled	" "	25,067,509	25,553,530	16,343,359
Oleo oil	"	62,639,980	85,013,886	48,333,325
Oleomargarine	"	2,274,768	2,334,219	1,846,128
Tallow lb		9,720,322	28,178,108	20,371,906
Bacon	"	90,288,604	143,526,683	130,963,167
Hams and Shoulders	"	90,336,946	129,729,262	96,146,862
Pork, fresh pickled	"	25,496,154	30,210,568	27,987,312
Lard	"	256,876,906	347,283,222	309,268,848
Neutral Lard"		17,545,308	38,845,071	31,515,378

Butter lb.	2,080,947	3,536,120	2,339,208
Cheese "	1,770,440	4,492,392	1,514,254
Food animals, meat, and dairy products,			
Total Value	\$83,203,157.	\$96,771,609.	\$81,637,867.

There is no alarming symptom to be found in these figures bearing upon the question of the exodus from the farm. The fluctuations in the various articles are what might be naturally expected from year to year. Should the United States approach the time when exportation of agricultural products should cease, then the matter will have reached an alarming stage.

The average value of all property per farm in 1910 was \$6,444.00 as compared with \$3,563.00 in 1900. The average value of all property per acre of land in farms was \$46.64 in 1910 and \$24.37 in 1900. The average value of land per acre was \$32.40 in 1910, and \$15.57 in 1900. The average number of acres to the farm was 202.6 in 1850, 199.2 in 1860, 153.3 in 1870, 133.7 in 1880, 136.5 in 1890, 146.2 in 1900, and 138.1 in 1910.

The following table shows the tenure of farms, the per cent of total number of farms operated by owners, managers, and tenants.

Table
Tenure of farms.

Operated by	1910	1900
Owners	62.1	63.7
Managers	0.9	1.0
Tenants	37.0	35.3

Table.

Farm mortgages.

Per cent of all farms for which reports were obtained.

	1910	1900	1890
Farms mortgaged	33.6	31.1	28.2
Farms not mortgaged	66.4	68.9	71.8

The ratio of the indebtedness to the value of the farms was 35.5 per cent in 1890 and 27.3 in 1910. These tables show that the number of farms mortgaged have increased but that the amount of the mortgages as compared with the value of the farms has decreased disclosing the fact that the farmers have a larger equity in their farms.

In the decade 1900-10 there was a slight decrease in the number of owners operating farms, also a slight decrease in the number of managers, and a consequent increase in the number of tenants.

In Kansas the average value of farm products per farm was \$1,721.50 in 1910. The average value of all farm property per farm was \$11,467.00. The expenses per farm for feed, labor and fertilizer was \$507.00. The excess of products over expenses \$1,214.50. Eight per cent on investment, \$917.36. Excess of products over all \$297.14. These figures show only in a general way that the farm in Kansas is paying at least small returns.

Chapter II.

Economic Viewpoint.

In the preceding pages I have given some facts and figures gleaned from the census reports which show conclusively that there is a gradual falling off of the increase in rural population until in a few years if the present trend continues there will be an actual decrease. Also there is every indication that there has already set in a decrease of the number of people actually living on the farm.

In order to obtain more specific information on the subject of why there is a shift of population from the country to town, I have been making an investigation in my home town (Enid, Okla.). This is a city of about 14,000 inhabitants. It was started in 1893 the year of the opening of the Cherokee Strip. It is situated in a good agricultural region. It has three railroads running out in ten different directions, being also a division point of the Frisco. Phillips University is located here and had 621 different students last year in all departments. Enid also has a splendid public school system, having one of the best high school buildings in the United States. A few jobbing houses, iron foundry, tile factory, etc. offer a limited amount of employment to laborers.

I give this brief description to help throw light on the answers I received.

I have gone from house to house inquiring who had

lived on a farm, in what state, what year they left the farm, how many were in the family at the time of leaving, their reasons for leaving, and their objections, if they had any, to the farm and farm life.

Over thirty-three and one-third per cent of the reasons given for leaving the farm contained some phase of a financial difficulty. That is some moved because of crop failures, drouth, etc., some did not know how to farm therefore could'nt make it pay, others were not able to capitalize the farm, while others decided there was more money in something else. There are other economic features that enter into the reasons such as the problem of help on the farm and in the house, bad roads, question of markets, etc.

First of all if a man wants to get rich quick he must leave the farm. Some men accumulate a fair sized fortune on the farm but as a rule he who depends upon the products of the soil will never be rich as the world counts riches to-day. Hence many men are not content with laying by a few hundred a year but want to get into something that has more thrill in the way of speculation and fluctuation; also more opportunity for genius in the study of the great economic principles involved in the world's trade. For some men really have more talent than can be exercised on the average farm. That men are desirous of getting quick returns, is constantly being verified by the number of farmers, merchants, and professional men who keep investing in mining stock, oil and gas wells,

etc. It is that ever present appeal to human nature to take the short cut and amass a fortune quickly. If the foregoing be true then there is continually a drafting of the class of best money-makers among the farmers to fill the ranks of other forms of business. This leaves therefore a larger per cent of the ones less able to make farming pay and to help better the general conditions of the farmer and his farm. This is in accord with the facts shown in the table of the tenure of farms, that is that there is an increase in the number of farms operated by tenants and a corresponding decrease, of course in the number operated by managers and owners.

Crop failures force many to leave the farm. This is no doubt true to a greater extent the last few years than ever before from the fact that it costs more to farm than ever before and men stake their all on one or two crops and if they happen to strike bad crop conditions they lose all and are not able to hold on. He can live in town without capital and hopes to find some employment so he moves to the city.

Crop failure of course applies more to this western country than farther east or north, but the rapid settlement of the west in the last two or three decades make this fact one that must be given greater prominence than otherwise it would be.

Another reason for crop failure aside from drouth, exceeding wet weather, storms, etc., is that as men from the east and north go west and south they do not always

take into consideration the difference in soil, climate, and other conditions therefore do not farm to suit these conditions. The agricultural colleges and experiment stations are doing much toward removing this difficulty by bringing the farmer to a better knowledge of his farm and how to farm it. With the practice of dry farming, the better study of local conditions with the consequent adaptation of crops to these conditions will remove to a large extent in the near future the matter of crop failure.

Others say they are not able to capitalize the farm. I submit an estimate of the probable needs of an Oklahoma or Kansas farmer and their value.

4 to 8 horses	\$750.00 to \$1500.00	
2 wagons	100.00 "	150.00
2 gangs	100.00 "	150.00
2 walking plows	20.00 "	25.00
1 sulky "	25.00 "	40.00
Disc and harrow	40.00 "	50.00
Mower and rake	55.00 "	60.00
Corn planter and lister	60.00 "	75.00
Binder	100.00 "	125.00
Cultivators	30.00 "	75.00
Buggy or carriage	50.00 "	100.00
Harness	75.00 "	140.00
Minor articles	75.00 "	100.00
Total minimum \$1,480.00, maximum \$2,295.00		

From this estimate it would follow that a man ought to have from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 to start to farm for a year. Then if he fails he has used up his \$300.00 to \$500.00 surplus and must mortgage his personal property to secure his Grocer for the next year. His property has in the meantime depreciated in value. This may well make a poor man hesitate to jeopardize a few hundred dollars he has saved up, or the remaining amount he has as an equity in the personal property. One man told me that he failed three successive years in Texas; his property was then all gone and nothing left for him to do but go to town.

This condition has come about with high prices and the more advanced methods of farming. This coupled with the high price of rent that naturally follows the high price of land, together with a decreasing productive power of the soil makes it increasingly more difficult year by year for the poor man to farm.

Others say that the farm don't pay. This is of course disproved by the great number who say that it does pay and by the men of moderate means who remain on the farm which they could not do except that they were at least breaking even. The farm may not pay what men think it ought to pay is perhaps the true objection. This is no doubt true in the main. Among their comments the authors of a *Social and Economic Survey of a Rural *Social and Economic Survey of a Rural Township in Minnesota, by Thompson and Warber, page 75.

Township in Minnesota" say; "Farmers say that the only way to improve country life is to make it return bigger profits: big money returns are needed not only big crops." This is another problem our agricultural colleges are trying to solve with the aid of students of economics.

The lack of adaptation of crops has already been mentioned. A merchant told me recently that in the present drouth and crop failure in his part of Oklahoma, the farmer who depended less on wheat and corn and more on the sale of milk, cream, butter, chickens and eggs together with the raising and fattening of stock, was the one who was not being carried on the books of the merchant.

The census report for 1910 shows an expenditure of \$53.00 per farm for fertilizer. When men are constantly taking off of the soil and putting nothing back the result is inevitably a lower yield and a poorer quality of the product. Extensive farming has been followed hitherto because the soil was new and land was plentiful. Since all the available land is about taken up and the soil is growing older, intensive farming will become more and more necessary. That this is beginning to be the trend is perhaps shown by the fact that the size of the average farm is growing less.

When computed as interest the income from the farm must be increased year by year to keep pace with the advance in the market value of land. When land reaches

\$150.00 to \$250.00 per acre it becomes a more serious problem how to farm that land than when it was worth \$50.00 to \$75.00 per acre. Often too, the location of the land, not the productiveness of the soil has determined the market value, so the problem is made more difficult.

One young man told me that his father had always given him an interest in the business hence he did not leave the farm because he was dissatisfied but to attend school. No doubt many boys do leave because farm life seems to them to be all work and no pay. If it is a good and sound principle for the employer to share the profits with the employee as is being so forcibly advocated to-day, then why should'nt the boy on the farm receive a share, thus helping to keep him on the farm. Some similar method should be pursued with the girls or else there will be aroused a sense of injustice. Make the family a sort of co-operative body wherein all have stock and each helps to run the business.

Another element that enters into the economic side of the question is that of roads. That bad roads are a great hindrance to the prosperity of the farmer has come to be pretty generally recognized. He is forced to market his grain and other produce when the roads are good. This being the case with all, the markets are flooded at certain times and prices go down. No doubt if the delivery of grain were equally distributed throughout the year, there would be much less fluctuation of

price and in the end the farmer would realize more for his product.

The fact that the roads are in the poor condition in which they are generally found is sufficient evidence to prove that the system of road improvement used hitherto is inefficient. I will quote again from the "Social and Economic Survey of a Rural Township in Minnesota." "Each year the farmers of the township could construct one mile of permanent roadbed, well drained and graveled for the amount of money they now expend on the whole township, if taxes were used according to plans of the State Highway Engineer. *But some have complained that only the main traveled roads leading into the towns would be worked and this in the interest of automobile owners. The hope now is that so many farmers are becoming owners of automobiles that their views of the question will materially change. Then the work of "good roads" organizations is having its effect. Movements are on foot for the establishing of inter-state and inter-county highways. The Missouri Legislature at its last session, passed a law requiring state roads to be built connecting the county-seats of the various counties. With better roads many dollars will be saved to the farmer in conservation of hauling power and difference in market price.

*Social and Economic Survey of a Rural Township in Minnesota" by Thompson and Warber, page 74.

On the question of hired help I quote from the "Social and Economic Survey of a Rural Township in Minnesota." *"We thus see how the increase of livestock on the farm represents an increase in the kind of work that cannot be reduced to machine process. But few people realize the importance of this labor situation as it presents itself to the farmer to-day. The census reports indicate how there has been a general increase of hired help in live-stock farming districts. In this township fifteen per cent of the farmers had hired help by the year, nine per cent had help by the month over four months but less than a year, eight per cent by the month less than four months, and thirty-four per cent hired day labor. Of the total number of farmers twenty-three per cent found it their biggest problem to get satisfactory help. There is more and more a demand for the kind of laborers upon whom the farmer may depend absolutely. Besides physical strength, the present day system of farming demands a willingness to work irregular hours and a genuine personal interest in the work on handThus it is that in the opinion of many, the hired help problem is the biggest problem confronting the farmer."

Some have told me that having grown old and the children gone away, they were no longer able to work the farm and they could not secure satisfactory help.

*"Social and Economic Survey of a Rural Township in Minnesota" by Thompson and Warber, page 11.

The situation in the house is perhaps more complicated than the one on the farm. The labors of the household have usually increased with the advanced methods of farming but the conveniences for the housewife have not kept ~~up~~pace. The large demand for girls in stores, shops, offices, together with the changed view of the social position of the "hired girl" has made it very difficult for the housewife to secure help at all. If a girl works out she prefers to do so in town where she may have more company and more opportunities for pleasure and enjoyment.

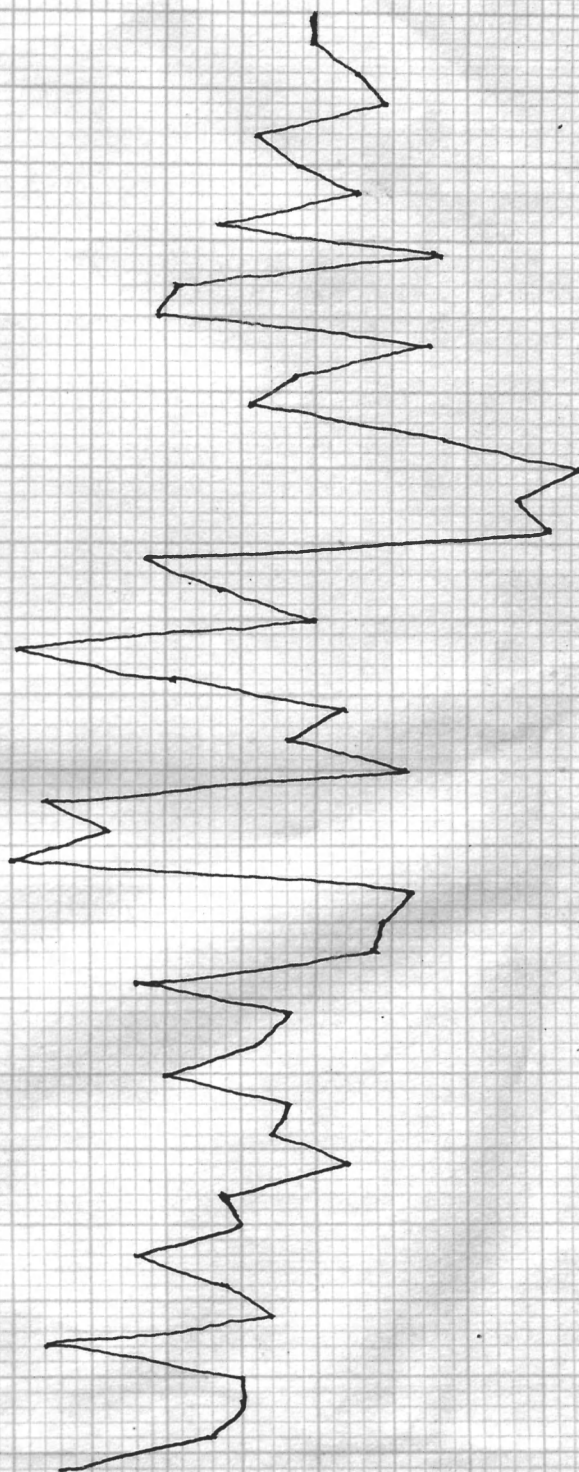
Many mistakes and failures on the part of farmers have created a distrust in the efficacy of co-operations, but yet they are increasing in number and efficiency. The trouble is not with the principle but with the farmer himself. He is not by nature co-operative. In many instances they have made the mistake of trying to undersell in their stores, when they should have used the system of dividends as to the saving feature. Oftentimes farmers are put in charge of the co-operative business because they own some of the stock rather than because they have ability to conduct the enterprise successfully. Where the Grange, the Farmers' Alliance and similar organizations have been conducted without allowing politics or some other foreign interest to dominate, they have proven beneficial to the farmer socially and economically..

That more than one and three-quarters billion dollars is lost every year on farm products through waste, lack of

Kansas.

Wheat-

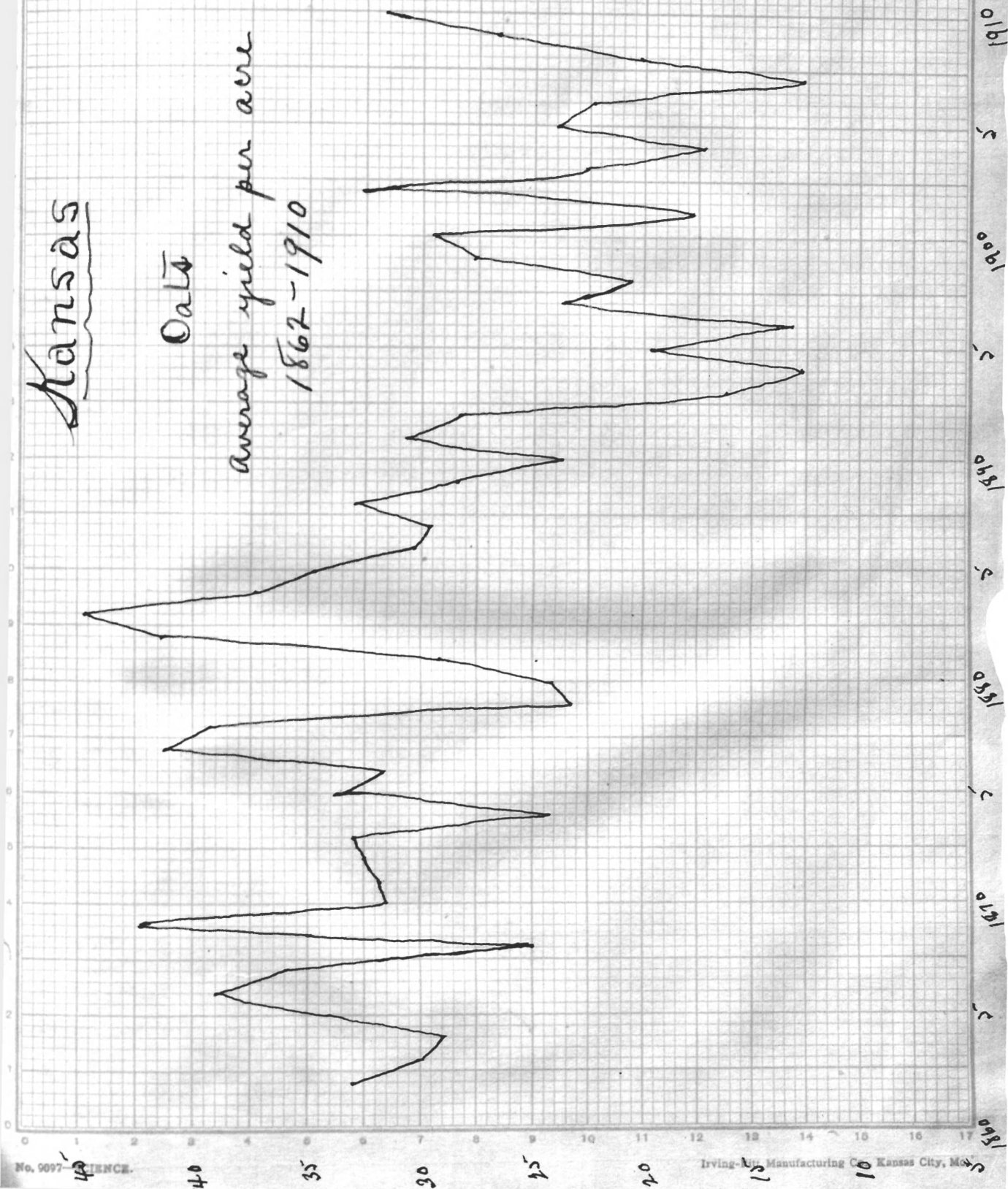
Average yield per acre
1862-1910



Kansas

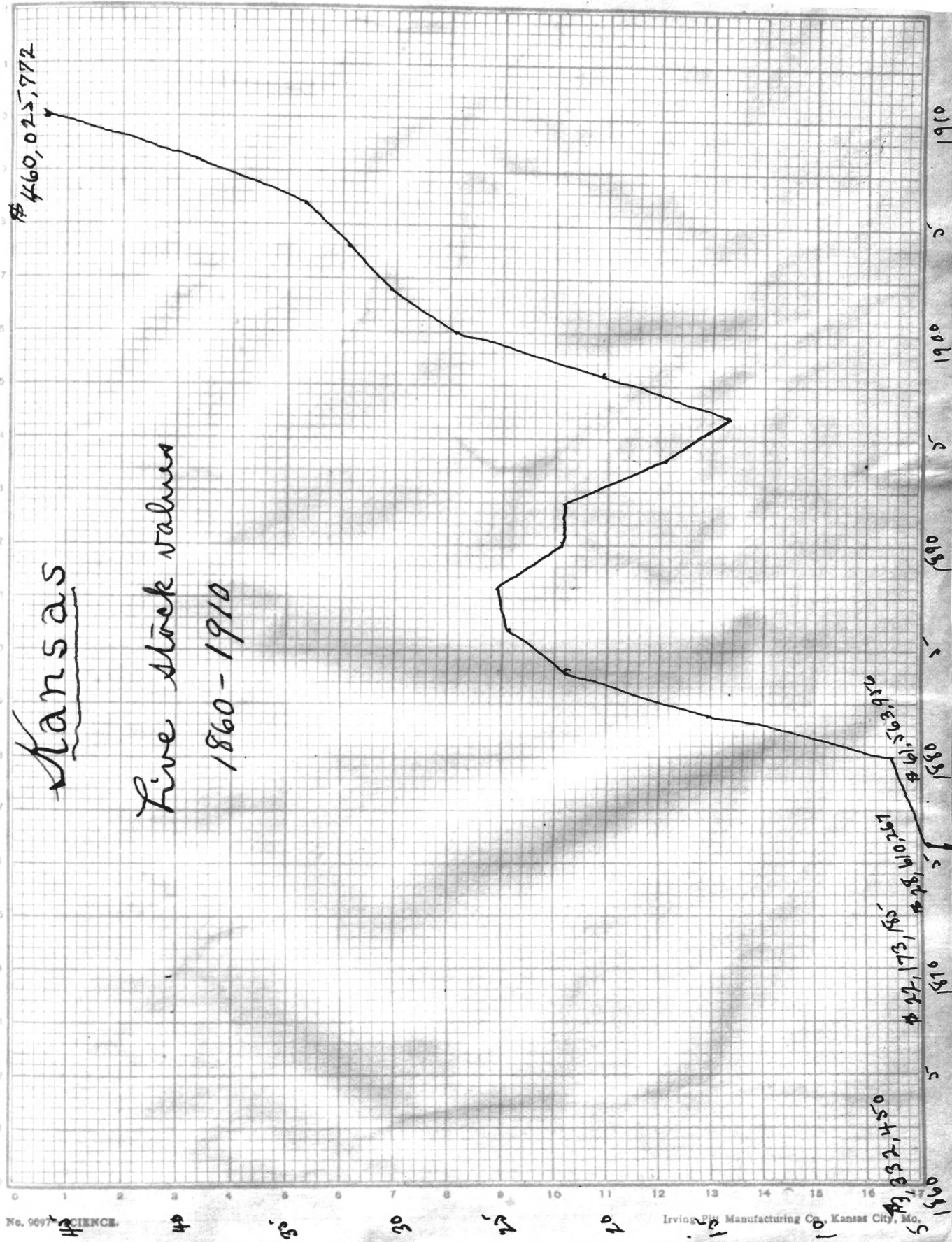
Oats

Average yield per acre
1862-1910



Kansas

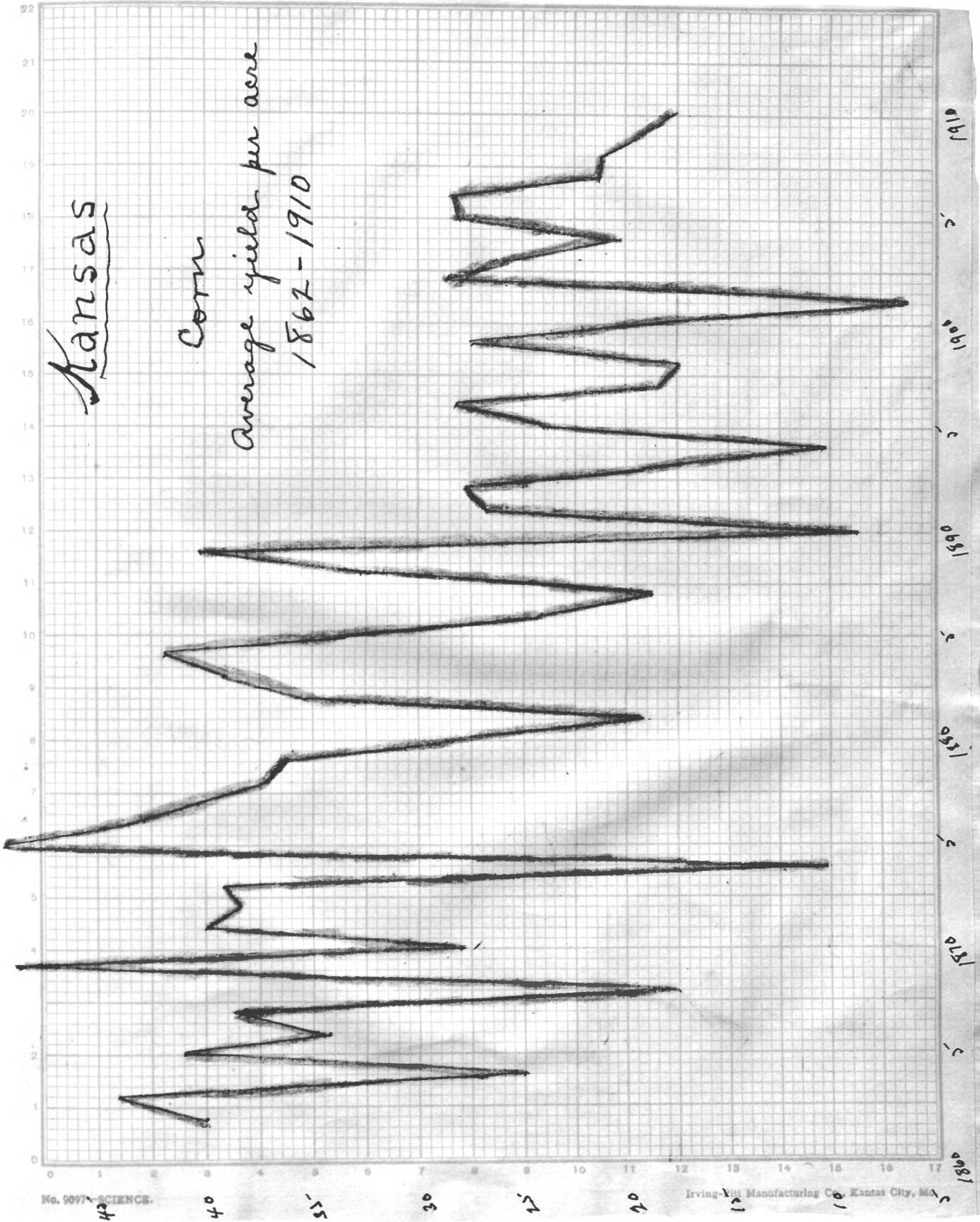
Live stock values
1860-1910



Kansas

Corn

Average yield per acre
1862-1910



proper marketing facilities and co-operation, was the statement of B. F. Yeakum, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Frisco Lines, who addressed the second day's session of the first "National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits," held in Chicago last April. This was a conference of government experts, railroad officials, capitalists, and farmers to discuss among other things how prices of products may be increased for the farmer, and made cheaper for the consumer. So we see at the present the movement is not alone one of co-operation among farmers but a co-operation between producer and consumer in an attempt to eliminate as far as possible the middleman.

In undertaking to answer the question, why are people leaving the farm to go to town, we are no doubt forced to acknowledge that the primary reason is an economic one. Men and women will admit that the farm requires a great deal of hard work but they will add it is an independent life and they like it; still if they can't make it pay they are forced to leave. This is a primary reason from the fact that there is no choice involved. If people are financially unable to live on the farm it is not a question of whether they like it or not.

In the study of Kansas in particular from the economic viewpoint, I submit some graphs showing the wheat, corn, and oats productions also the holdings of livestock in the state for the years 1862-1910. In the chart on page 10 showing the population of the state by counties in the

censuses 1860-1910, it will be noticed that most of the western and south-western counties had a decrease in population in the decade 1890-1900. By consulting the graphs it will be noticed that there was a decline in the production of wheat, corn, and oats also in live-stock production in the same decade showing that the exodus was caused by a series of crop failures.

On the whole we must look to the economic viewpoint of the problem as the one of priority in rank but not as occupying the field alone or as being unmixed with other elements both local and general.

Chapter III.

Social Viewpoint.

Next to the reasons given for leaving the farm which may be grouped under the head economic, are those which I choose to classify as social. These include the reasons affecting the home life, the training at school and at church.

Out of one hundred reasons I have collated, twenty-four are based on the inadequacy of the rural schools. These are grouped under lack of efficient teachers, too short terms, and no high schools. There is now perhaps no question in the foreground so much in educational circles as that of the rural school problem. As an introductory statement I quote from the "Eighteenth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kansas;" "That men are created equal is unquestioned; that they remain so is sophistry. The

schoolboy with shining face is at the parting of the ways. If city bred, his school days are spent in costly buildings with modern equipment and under the tutoring of experts. The country lad has none of these, and yet his numbers are greater, while from his sturdy ranks come the men who do the great things, command armies, build industries, separate continents. From the outland, where life throbs strongest, the air is purest, the thoughts cleanest, come these handicapped youths to engage in the battle of life and win or lose. With an improved rural school he may win; without it--failure." I. D. Graham.*

The Illinois School Report is quoted by Professor Fairchild in his "Bulletin of Information regarding* Consolidation of Rural Schools" as follows: "Thinking men have long since discovered that if this emigration to the cities for higher education is to continue, the country as well as its schools will be sapped of its vitality, and this thought has taken form in the expression that the country child is entitled to as good educational privileges as the city child, and this too without breaking up the family home and that everything short of this is unfair to the child and unprofitable to the community."

In the consideration of the inefficiency of rural schools the first thing to be noted is the teacher.

*"Eighteenth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kansas." page, 88.

*"Bulletin of Information regarding consolidation of Rural Schools," Fairchild, page 5.

The failures of the teacher may largely be traced to three things; her lack of preparation, her lack of experience, and her extreme youth. Since the wages together with social advantages have been better in the city, the best equipped teachers have gone there. There has been a marked increase in salaries of rural schools in recent years but statistics do not show that there has come better teachers with this increase. This deficiency is being met by some of the states in the form of laws requiring one or more years of standard high school work as a pre-requisite to obtaining a certificate to teach. If there should be required with this some normal training the lack of experience would not be felt so much.

Instead of the country school teacher being less well equipped other conditions remaining the same, she should be better equipped because of the handicap in facilities.

Professor Fairchild says; "Again, the average age of teachers in rural schools is continually lessening. In one county in eight years the average age has decreased from twenty-three to twenty years. While we have no recent statistics in the matter, it is probably true that the average age of teachers in the country schools is to-day even less than twenty years. Probably more than one-third of the teachers engaged in the schools of the country districts last fall were wholly inexperienced. In some counties fully fifty per cent

of the teachers are engaged in their first school work."

While it is true that so far as actual teaching is concerned each teacher must begin somewhere without experience, but to couple this with lack of training and extreme youth seems little short of a calamity for the schools.

The training given young people who were preparing to teach hitherto has been such as to prepare them to teach in city schools. Hence the country boy or girl who wanted to teach and become efficient in the profession has found the tide toward the city an inevitable one. Why secure a college education and an added amount of professional skill to teach in competition with the person who has only an eighth grade standing? On the other hand if the position be raised to where it requires more skill to perform the task the competition will not be between persons so widely different in preparation.

But even a competent teacher cannot overcome all the obstacles in her path. There is the matter of expense per pupil of maintaining schools in sparsely settled districts. Professor Fairchild says; "In a special bulletin* published by the superintendent of public instruction of Michigan, in April, 1902, it appears that of 6,452 districts of the state 51 had two pupils, or fewer and held no schools; that 83 schools of the southern peninsula had five pupils or fewer; that the average attendance of these schools was three; that these 83 schools cost \$13,636. or an average of \$9.95 per pupil per month, or \$95.50 per

*"Bulletin of Information regarding Consolidation of Rural Schools," Fairchild, pages, 3, 4.

year of ten months, though the number taught averaged fewer than six. It also appears that 1,004 schools had fifteen or fewer; that the average attendance of these schools was but eight; that the thousand schools cost \$200,478.13, or an average of \$199.67 each, and that the cost per pupil was \$4.16 per month, or \$41.60 per year of ten months, high schools included, the average cost being less."

From this it appears that over a thousand country schools in Michigan are maintained at a cost per pupil more than double that of the most expensive city schools. In addition to this fact the superintendent estimates that the country people of Michigan pay out annually over a million dollars for tuition and other expenses of their non-resident pupils from the country seeking higher learning in the city schools.

"The figures from our own state (Kansas) are most startling. Of the 8,603 districts there are 78 having an enrollment of five or less, 474 between five and ten, 1,049 between ten and fifteen and 1,316 between fifteen and twenty--a total of 2,917 with an enrollment of twenty or less. More than one-third of all the districts have an enrollment of twenty or less.

In the matter of average daily attendance there are 286 schools having five pupils or less, 1,343 having between five and ten pupils, 1,889 between ten and fifteen, and 1808 between fifteen and twenty; or a total of 5,326 schools in this state having a daily average attendance

"Bulletin of Information regarding Consolidation of Rural Schools," Fairchild, page 5,6.

of twenty or less; or 62 per cent of the whole. In addition to all this there are 170 districts not maintaining schools, presumably because the schools are so small that they find it cheaper to send to other districts. In the small districts a cost of \$50.00 to \$100.00 per pupil per year based on the average daily attendance is not uncommon in almost any county in the state. The pupils of these schools could be educated at a much lower expense per capita in a consolidated school that would be far more efficient than the small school."*

The facts quoted above show that it is not a lack of money expended that the rural schools are not what they ought to be, but that the conditions prevent the realization on the funds used. The only remedy in sight for this condition is the consolidated school. Some of the advantages of the consolidated school over the one-teacher school are; it permits better grading and classification; it takes a less number of teachers and equipment and hence is cheaper; it permits the employment of teachers who have specialized in the teaching of certain grades; the classes are larger and hence more interesting to both teacher and pupils; it permits a more complete course of study and the teaching of subjects especially adapted to rural life; the social life of the pupil is widened and the circle of acquaintance extended; the

*"Bulletin of Information regarding Consolidation of Rural Schools"--Fairchild, page 5.

larger association improves the manners of the pupils, strengthens their individuality, broadens their experience with others, and makes them better and more intelligent citizens.

The above are a few of the many reasons that may be advanced for the consolidation of schools. The principle was put into operation in Kansas, in 1898, In 1907 some twenty counties had consolidated schools, numbering in all 27 schools. In addition to that number 130 school districts discontinued their schools and transported their pupils to other districts.

The reports from the superintendents of the various counties having consolidated schools prove it to be a success by giving figures to show that there is an increased enrollment, an increase in the per cent of attendance, together with an increased number of pupils passing the required examination with a higher average grade.

Another feature of the consolidated school that bears upon the subject in hand is that it may be made a part of the "social center" idea. The building may be used for other purposes than school at times when school is not in session. In this way the social life of the pupils may be developed along with the intellectual side and all be done under home influence.

The question of importance next to the school under the social viewpoint is that of the home.

Out of the one hundred answers, ten left the farm because of poor health. It is true that while the farmer has been raising the standard of hygienic conditions under

which he cares for his stock, he has not manifested the same care with regard to his family. He has so studied his beast of burden that he is able to obtain the greatest amount of labor and in a satisfactory manner but his boy or girl is supposed to drudge away as a matter of course, until before he is aware of it he has driven them away from the farm. Even then he does not recognize the true cause but attributes it to ingratitude.

If every home were made sanitary and the work indoors and out were reduced more and more to system with the welfare of the family rather than that of the stock held as of first importance, there would be a less number of people leaving the farm.

Reference has already been made to the economic principle involved in keeping the boy and girl on the farm.

Young men have told me that their labor had been taken until they were of age and then they were set adrift without anything. While this is the extreme position yet the results are the same in proportion as they approach this extreme. Boys and girls must not be treated as mere slaves, even lower than hired help, or if they have any spirit at all they are sure to rebel. In short the home should be made a home indeed.

As to modern conveniences that go to make life in the home pleasant, I quote from the "Township Social Survey," "The following figures show the percentages of

*"Social and Economic Survey of a Rural Township in Southern Minnesota" Thompson & Warber, pp. 12, 74.

homes into which certain conveniences have been introduced; oil stoves, fifty-seven; furnaces, fifteen; hard coal stoves, forty-four; soft-coal heaters, thirty-one; washing machines, thirty-three; washing machines run by engine, ten; drinking water in house, eleven; soft water in house, sixty-three; soft water beside house, ten. Food purchased canned vegetables, sixteen; fruit, fifty-four; fresh meat, fifty-nine; prepared breakfast food, thirty-three." The same work also states in another place that there are six homes in the township with complete modern heating and plumbing equipment.

With this condition existing it is no wonder that the young people are attracted to the city where the home is made so much more convenient, pleasant, and attractive.

The church enters into the rural problem from the standpoint of creating such a social atmosphere as to satisfy those who are on the farm. In the earlier days of a less number of towns and greater distance to travel in order to get to them, the country church was the social center. Here the people gathered on Sunday and after the worship was over they were ready to visit and exchange items of news which the isolation of their positions forbade their obtaining through the week. Now with the modern telephone and the rural free delivery they have all the news day by day as it transpires. The numerous denominations each striving to obtain a foothold in the community, makes so many churches that all are necessarily weak and can have preaching only once or twice a month.

With only a small struggling Sunday School as an attraction it is hard to keep up an attendance especially among the young people. Then with the automobile the family is now in reach of the village or city church many miles away.

These and many other factors have conspired to cause a great decline in the life of the rural church.

As with the school so with the church, it is the lack of numbers to carry on efficient work. The church needs to become a part of the social center and the nucleus of a larger territory. This can be greatly forwarded by the practice of union. This movement is abroad in the land but operates slowly and necessarily because the churches realize there is much at stake. An educated ministry for the rural churches will go far toward the solution of this problem. I find the greatest objection to union among the preachers of the rural churches, and of course, the people will not advance faster than their leaders.

While the automobile appears now to be the enemy of the rural church by causing the people to go to neighboring villages and cities also to go visiting and "joy riding," it may in time become a help by permitting the rural church to draw from a larger territory. The territorial unit of schools and churches must be increased. The more people a community has to draw from the more efficient leaders they will be able to obtain. The small building, poorly lighted and heated, with the music, preaching and everything else in keeping, cannot compete

with the splendidly equipped building and its trained workers of the city. The next thing to do is to bring the rural conditions up as nearly as possible to the higher standard.

As it will be necessary in the future to have teachers trained to teach in country schools, just so will it be necessary to have men trained to serve the rural churches, men who will not count the country church just a stepping stone to the city church but who will aim to make that work his life's ministry. Such a man will be able to help solve the problem by co-operating with the teacher and taking the lead in molding sentiment in behalf of the social center, the co-operative store the consolidated school, and kindred ideas that make for the betterment of rural conditions.

This is an age of amusements. Men have vied with each other in inventing that which will give pleasure and amusement. The world has become almost intoxicated with the idea of amusement. The great city park with its whirl of gayety and excitement is a sample of the attempt to satisfy this abnormal appetite.

It is folly to think that while the city is advancing to this extreme that the rural districts would remain content with the old fashioned quilting, husking bee, and log-rolling. The country youth has found that he too may feel the thrill of city life and after a few periodical visits he goes to stay.

The country school boy sees his city cousin enter-

ing into competition with his fellows in thrilling contests of foot-ball basket-ball, and other athletic games, while he goes to a school which does not have a total enrollment sufficient to constitute a base-ball team. Can he be expected to remain unmoved by the spirit of the age.

When the country boy wants to quit work on Saturday after-noon to go play base-ball he is told that would be a waste of time and there is no money in it. And so far as exercise is concerned plowing six days in the week will furnish enough of that. But in spite of what the father thinks ought to be done he finds that the boy has left the farm.

As girls are not enlisted as much in money-making on the farm as are the boys there is found to be a larger amount of them leaving the old home.

With the consolidated school the pupils may be able to take up all the games that they have in the city. There would be a larger number to draw from hence more efficient players could be developed, and if the standard of proficiency was maintained comparable with that of the towns there would not result the desire to go to the city school.

Of course the country cannot keep abreast with the city in every respect as for instance in the attractions of the parks, but everything ought to be done that can be done to make the social life satisfactory on the farm.

Not only should the young people and children be

considered but the middle aged and the old. Again the social center comes into use. The social side may be combined with the economic in making the organizations serve both. In fact every meeting should have its social element.

The meetings of the Grange have been profitable in this respect. The organization accepts both men and women into its membership and has both the business session and the social feature. The more people can be thrown in ^{to} contact with each other the more they become socialized and the better able to co-operate in business matters.

Aside from amusement people need recreation or a change of labor and of thought. The mind grows weary with the monotony of studying the same task and directing the same round of procedure. It longs to break away at times from the old paths and see the world as others are seeing it. This often enables one to learn that he does not travel the roughest path and hence tends to make him more contented with his lot.

Chapter IV.

The Psychological Viewpoint.

The fact that many answer that they didn't like the farm, while others say they didn't know how to farm and still others recognize that there are social barriers separating the farmer from the city man, all go to prove that there is a psychological viewpoint.

It is self-evident that the farm would not be able to

take care of all its natural increase in population together with the immigration. Therefore some must go elsewhere but to stay the exodus from growing so large is the problem, and to retain the ones that by nature are fitted for that sort of life and make the conditions such that they may receive a just recompense for their labor is the question in hand.

Wise and just is the parent who can by study and observation anticipate the mental trend of his child and proceeds to prepare him for that trade or profession. How often we see on the other hand ambitious parents who have spoiled a good farmer by trying to make a physician or a lawyer. And again we find boys and girls kept on the farm who might have made their mark in the world if they had been allowed to follow their natural bent and procure training along that line.

That there are recognized classes of society we are forced to admit and that young people will be influenced by the approbation of their fellows as they are considered with this or that class, no one is ready to deny. Hence when such terms as "country rube," "clod hopper," and "hay seed" are commonly applied to a class it will seriously affect the decision of many as they approach the point of choosing life's vocation.

But are classes a necessity or are they a relic of barbarism and a thing to be dispensed with. "That all men are created equal" is one of our favorite maxims but can we cause them to continue so and recognize each other as such.

Veblen in his book, "The Theory of the Leisure Class" says that primitive tribes have but little if any class distinction. He cites as examples the Andamans, the Todas, Ainu, Bushmen, and the Eskimo. The reasons he assigns for this are; they are small groups; they have a simple structure of society; they are peaceable; and they are poor. He further says that individual ownership is not a dominant ^{nt} feature.

In the transition from the first stage or that of savagery to the second stage or that of barbarism, Professor Veblen notes that the transition is one from peace to war. The process of war furnishes two divisions of activity that of exploit and that of drudgery. The one is counted noble, the other ignoble.

As organization is necessary in war and some form of rule is necessary to maintain the position obtained in battle, there arises out of the noble class a yet smaller class who become the rulers. In the philosophy of heathen religionists this class stands next to the supreme ruler and hence in their genealogies becomes the offspring of the gods and the representatives of the gods or priests. Thus there seem to appear naturally three classes, priests, warriors, and the common people. Japan has had her nobles, warriors, and all the rest; India has her priests, warriors, and husbandmen; Egypt her priests, soldiers, and common people; the Hebrews their priests, levites, and common people; Greece her nobles, freemen and slaves; Rome her patricians, her

plebians, and slaves; and in England, France, Germany, Italy, and northern Spain the feudal system of the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries furnished the classes of the Pope or King, the lords or nobility, the freemen, and the serfs or villeins. There were also slaves who were later converted into serfs.

The operation of the principles, whatever they may be in the formation of classes has been too systematic and too similar among various peoples and in all ages of the world for it to be passed by as merely coincidents of history.

Among the psychological elements that enter into the formation of classes of society is that of the gregarious instinct. Regarding the operation of this instinct Professor McDougall says; "Just so, in any human being the instinct operates most powerfully in relation to, and receives the highest degree of satisfaction from the presence of the human beings who most closely resemble that individual, those who behave in like manner and respond to the same situations with similar emotions."

*Again, "It is because we are not equally attracted by all social aggregations but find the greatest satisfaction of the gregarious impulse in the society of those most like ourselves, that a segregation of like elements *occurs* secure in all communities."**

*"Introduction to Social Psychology" McDougall, page 300.

**"Ibid, page, 300.

We have all noticed the principle of the community of interests which if not the work directly of the gregarious instinct is nevertheless in harmony with it. In any group of men those of the same calling or profession will gather in groups to discuss matters of common interest.

An example of this is cited by McDougall when he says; "The same tendency is illustrated by the formation *** in the United States of America of large, locally circumscribed communities of various European extractions; and in our large towns it manifests itself in the segregation of people of similar race and occupation and social status, a process which results in striking differences between the various districts or quarters of the town, and striking uniformities within the limits of any one such quarter."

But what bearing does this principle have upon the present thesis? Does it not operate in the main against the shifting of population? Yes, and no doubt this is one of the important forces that make for the conditions contained in a statement of Professor Gillette; "Ninety or ninety-five per cent of the population will either remain in the community they are born and reared in, or will remove to a similar community one with similar interests."*

**Professor Cooley names three conditions which make for the increase or diminution of the caste principle which would of course operate equally as strong against class; he says, "These are first, likeness or unlike-

*"Constructive Rural Sociology" Gillette, page 234.

**"Social Organization" Cooley, page 217.

***"Social Psychology" McDougall, pages 300-1

ness in the constituents of the population; second, the rate of social change (whether we have to do with a settled or a shifting system), and, finally, the state of communication and enlightenment. Unlikeness in the constituents, of a settled system, and a low state of communication and enlightenment favor the growth of caste, and vice versa."

If this be true a classification of the forces that make for the continuance of class or its destruction, then it seems that it would follow that with our varied methods of agriculture, our rapid changes in social structure, and our advanced form of communication and enlightenment the barriers would be broken down that tend to keep the boy and girl on the farm.

Closely related to the idea of segregation is that of its antithesis, isolation. If putting men into groups tends to establish a community of interests, the isolation of individuals tends to the opposite direction. Men who work alone continually and are kept apart from their fellows become individualistic in their thoughts and actions. This has been plainly manifest in the failure of farmers' attempts to co-operate. It is not the failure of the principle but the fact that the farmer by nature is not co-operative. Hence while all trades and professions are organizing for the protection of their interests, the farmer lags behind and yet he recognizes that he has the power in his hand if he could but exercise it.

This failure of the farmer to co-operate is one of the greatest obstacles in the path of modern attempts to bring

about better rural conditions, notably the consolidated school, the "good roads" idea, the social center, etc. When the farmer comes to see that the man in town is really trying to co-operate with him and not to exploit him a great step is taken forward.

Brain versus brawn in occupation is no mean element in the formation and maintenance of class. The man who can stand above and direct the activities of men toward the consummation of great enterprises will always hold a different place among his fellows than the one who receives the direction and executes it in the ditch below. That which even the beast of the jungle recognizes as superior to his strength and which has made man to be "lord of all creation" is also recognized by man himself, that intelligence is a power of higher rank than physical strength. Then as long as there is a division of labor one for muscle and one for mind there will always be to some extent these two classes.

In this connection the influence of education and culture should be noted. If intellectual power is to be recognized as superior to physical strength then a more highly developed intellectual power makes the breach wider and even opens up the way for difference of rank within itself. This being true many boys and girls are educated away from their parents and former associates and hence away from the farm. Often it may be noticed now that the parents are alone on the farm having sent their children to the city to be educated and they did not return. Later they too move to town for they are not able to run the

farm without the children. One lady told me that out of eleven children in her father's family all sent away to school only three were now on the farm and one of these not by choice.

Gradually there must be built up an educated rural society so that an education will not longer be a class barrier between parent and child. And when the basis of this education may be laid in rural association the influences will be strong to retain him in the class of his parents.

Education coupled with the influence of a difference in occupation tends to different manners and customs in living. And where this is accentuated by wealth the difference becomes very great. Occupation stamps itself on the very movement and bearing of the individual, enabling one to almost give the vocation of each person as they pass along the street. Then no matter what may be the appeal to the manhood of the boy in behalf of the rugged honesty and stalwart integrity of the country swain, there appears before his mind the picture of the well-dressed youth with cultured manners passing to and fro on the city pavement in answer to the call of business or of society in either of which he is equally well at home.

Racial differences have always helped to promulgate the class spirit. The Hebrews counted all the rest of the world Gentiles; the Greek counted all others barbarians; and it is the tendency of any nation which is able to overpower another and enslave them, to arrogate to them-

selves a position of importance and in proportion to belittle others.

The presence of the Negro race in the United States helps to foster the class spirit. They are employed in manual labor and right away the white laborer that does the same sort of work is lowered socially. In communities where there are no Negroes the same task may be performed by a white man without any such consequences. This helps to increase the difficulties involved in the "hired man" and "hired girl" problem.

Since man is confronted with a veil of obscurity he ever lives in a state of more or less uncertainty. In this halo of chance the mind seems to have developed a fascination for competing with its fellows in anticipating the activities in both man and nature. In business operation we call this speculation. Now in the pursuit of agriculture there is the minimum amount of this. It is true of course that the seasons are uncertain and there is always more or less chance to run in putting out each crop but the variation is within certain bounds and subject to laws of nature. The type of mind which cannot be satisfied with reaping a limited amount of grain from the soil and selling it at a sum fixed without his consent will not, as a consequence, remain on the farm.

Some men say they cannot make enough money on the farm; this is not always a desire solely to be wealthy but a desire to play in the great game of chance that the business world affords.

The buying and selling of a little stock often allures men to some large stock market where he may continue the work of which he has just had a taste. The buying and selling of a farm or two likewise takes many a man away from the farm to occupy the real-estate office in town.

Then it is not alone a question of whether or not the farm will pay, but to a great extent it is a question of what are the inherited traits and capabilities and what the training and association has been.

Conclusion.

As before mentioned I have made a personal investigation, interviewing representatives of one hundred different families. I selected various parts of the city in which to do this work in order to obtain information which would be representative of the whole city. The information did vary with the different locations yet in the closing part of my work there seemed to be nothing new in the answers, just some slight variation of the old.

Out of the 100 interviewed there were 17 families who had not lived on a farm. From the remaining 83 I obtained 101 reasons why they had left the farm.

Of these 101 reasons 28 were some phase of economic trouble; that is, crop failure, remuneration for labor on the farm was too small, didn't know how to farm, etc.

Moving to town to obtain the advantages of better schools was given as a reason 24 times.

Didn't like farming was given, especially by the men 9 times. As was previously cited the women liked the farm better than the men.

Closely allied to the foregoing was the reason that farming was too hard work. This was given as a reason 10 times.

Moved because of ill health in some one or more members of the family was given 10 times.

The lack of proper social conditions to satisfy the desires of the family was given 6 times.

Parents were too old to farm and the children were all gone; lack of help because the children were gone and hired help could not be obtained or was unsatisfactory; young people marrying into families in the city and thus influenced to leave the farm; each of these reasons was given 4 times.

Was not able to capitalize the farm was given directly only twice but was implied in many other answers as a part of the reason for not remaining on the farm. In fact there was always an over-lapping and no one thing could be put forward as the only element involved in the change from country to town.

Since the United States is so large with such a varied topography and consequently a population with varied customs and interests, a brief investigation such as I have made is wholly inadequate to a judgment of the country as a whole, but for the locality considered I feel that the conclusions reached are correct.

That there is setting in a shift of population from country to town which may in the not distant future be a serious matter to the welfare of the country both economically and socially, there are good reasons to believe. This being true it naturally follows that there should be made a more serious study of the problem than has ever been made before with the view of bringing the standards of rural life up to where they will meet the demands. This means that there must be better roads, better schools, better health conditions, better methods of farming,

better churches, better social conditions and better opportunities for making money.

That there is being some successful effort made in this direction we can observe on every hand if in no other way than in the agitation of the question and the formation of sentiment.

In this movement the co-operation of city and town and country is needed, yes, is absolutely essential; when men shall be moved to look beyond their own narrow circle and interests to the larger matter of the interests of the country as a whole, then and not till then, will there be made possible the proper consideration of the question and hence an adequate solution.